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Report of the Economic and Social Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the organizational structure and the personnel and technical resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat (A/54/520/Add.1). The report was submitted pursuant to resolution 54/249, paragraph 93, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the administrative and financial issues concerning the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, in particular with regard to the number and level of posts in that Section.

2. The report is a supplement to the earlier report on the same subject which was submitted to the General Assembly in document A/54/520, describing in detail the activities of the Section and the significant increase in its workload and level of responsibility. During the consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

3. As indicated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of document A/54/520/Add.1, the staffing resources of the Section funded from the regular budget include five Professional (one D-1, two P-4, one P-3 and one P-2) and four General Service posts, equivalent to approximately 108 work-months annually, of which 60 are at the Professional level and 48 at the General Service level. In addition, the Section uses the services of volunteers on a regular basis, equivalent to approximately 60 work-months annually (20 work-months at the Professional level and 40 at the General Service level). The Advisory Committee was informed that volunteers include United Nations interns, assigned to the Section but administered centrally by the Office of Human Resources Management, and volunteers from non-governmental

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organizations (NGOs), assisting in various administrative support activities. In order to achieve a better balance between available and required staff resources and between permanent staff and volunteers, it is proposed to establish one new Professional post at the P-4 level and one General Service post.

4. The Advisory Committee is aware of both the level of responsibility of the NGO Section and its increased workload in the light of the current number of NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Committee has also noted that the number of meetings originally projected for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, has already doubled (A/54/657, para. 2). **The Committee, therefore, does not have any objection to the proposed establishment of two additional posts (one P-4 and one General Service) in the Section. However, in the light of the circumstances noted below, the Committee recommends that these two new posts be established on a temporary basis in the biennium 2000-2001 and that the proposal be resubmitted in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.**

5. **The Advisory Committee recalls its views in paragraph 4 of its report in document A/54/657 that proposals to strengthen the capacity of the NGO Section had been procedurally mishandled by the Secretariat and that there was a lack of coordination between Secretariat units. The Committee regrets the submission of proposals to strengthen the capacity of the NGO Section on a piecemeal basis.**

6. **The Advisory Committee reiterates its view, as indicated in paragraphs IV.10 and IV.11 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999,[1] as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220, and as indicated again in paragraph IV.16 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[2] that the Secretariat should submit a comprehensive report on the administrative and management implications of the large increase in NGOs involved in the work of the United Nations, in particular on the impact of this growth on the United Nations programme budget. The report would allow the Committee to ascertain the extent to which optimum use is made of current resources as well as to evaluate such additional resources as may be proposed for the various units of the Secretariat working with NGOs.**

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/52/7/Rev.1).

2 Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7).